THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, December 17, 1804.

MEMOIRS *of the* YOUNG ROSCIUS.

WILLIAM HENRY WEST BETTY, only ſon of William Henry Betty, was born on the 13th of September, 1791, as appears from the pariſh regiſter of the church of St. Chad's, in Shrewſbury. Mr. Betty, the father, was the ſon of Dr. Betty, a phyſician of eminence at Liſburn, not far from Belfaſt, in the north of Ireland, at whoſe death he became poſſeſſed of a handſome independent fortune. His wife was Miſs Mary Santon, the daughter of a gentleman in the county of Worceſter. It has been frequently ſaid, that Miſs Stanton had been formerly either a performer on a public ſtage, or in the frequent habit of acting in private theatres; neither of which reports have the ſmalleſt foundation in truth.

Mr. Betty, at the time of the birth of his ſon, lived within a ſmall diſtance of Shrewſbury, from whence he removed, a few years after, to the neighbourhood of his native place, in the north of Ireland. He occupied a farm, and alſo carried on ſome buſineſs relating to the linen manufactory, near Ballynhinch, in the county of Down.

In the ſummer of 1802, the play of Pizarro was brought out by the Belfaſt manager with much ſplendour, and Mrs. Siddons was the Elvira. As Mr. Betty and his ſon happened to be in the town, they were induced to go to the theatre, being the firſt time that Maſter Betty had ever ſeen a play. From this moment his fate was decided. When he came home he told his father, "he ſhould certainly die, if he muſt not be a player." The wonderful acting of Mrs. Siddons, in Elvira, not eaſily to be forgotten by the moſt phlegmatic, had left an impreſſion on his mind, which nothing could eraſe. Every thing was neglected for his favourite object; and every thing not connected with it,

became tireſome and inſipid. His propenſity grew viſibly more rooted by time; his importunities were irreſiſtible; and his parents at length thought ſeriouſly of indulging him. The happy moment at length arrived, which was to realize our hero's hopes and wiſhes. Mr. Atkins, the manager of the Belfaſt company, induced by the reports he had received, and ſolicitous to bring forward ſome extraordinary novelty on account of the extreme depreſſion of the times, offered him an engagement to play at Belfaſt, for four nights. Accordingly about the middle of Auguſt, in the year 1803, he announced the tragedy of Zara, the part of Oſman to be undertaken by a young gentleman only eleven years of age. The ſingularity of the exhibition drew together a great crowd of people, who were equally aſtoniſhed and enraptured at the performance of the young actor.

He afterwards performed with increaſed celebrity on the ſame ſtage, the characters of Douglas, Rolla, and Romeo. He has alſo performed with ſucceſs in other parts of Ireland, and alſo in Scotland, and ſeveral towns in England.

This theatrical prodigy made his firſt appearance before a London audience at Covent Garden on Saturday evening December 1, 1804, in the character of Achmet, in Barbaroſſa.

Never, perhaps, was the public curioſity raiſed higher than upon this occaſion. It is ſaid, that ſome perſons attempted even to conceal themſelves in the theatre the preceding evening, thinking the tedious waiting of the whole night, and the next day, amply compenſated by a ſeat on Saturday evening. Numbers, however, were obſerved patroling the ſtreets leading to the theatre the whole of Saturday morning; and as early as one o'clock they began to aſſemble at the doors in great numbers. The crowd very ſoon encreaſed ſo as to prevent all acceſs to Bow-ſtreet; and extended at the piazza entrance till the whole of the ſpace under the piazzas was entirely occupied. There muſt have been at leaſt ten times as many perſons as the whole theatre could contain, beſides the thouſands who returned, ſeeing not the moſt diſtant hope of gaining admiſſion. The heat and preſſure near the doors became ſo intolerable, long before the time of opening, that numbers of men fainted, and ſome were nearly ſuffocated. There was, however, no poſſible means of eſcape, and the danger at laſt became ſo great, that the guards and peace officers were called for unanimouſly by thoſe enclоſed under the covered ways, and by their interference many were enabled to retire, while no others were permitted to enter. The doors being opened much before the uſual time, the ruſh into the houſe was moſt tremendous; and numbers who had paid at the box door leaped over into the pit, ſo that it was filled almoſt inſtantly, and very few of thoſe who had ſuſtained the grievous crowd were recompenſed by a place. When no further

ther room remained in the pit, thoſe who had entered the front boxes with an intention of leaping over refuſed to retire, and overpowering the box-keepers, kept poſſeſſion of the places which had been engaged for parties. Thus all was for a long time a ſcene of indeſcribable confuſion.

The heat in every part of the houſe became exceſſive very ſoon after it was filled. What air could be admitted was admitted. The ſtage curtain was raiſed a foot or two from the ſtage; but the preſſure was ſo great that all the means tried were inſufficient. Frequently ſcreams were heard from thoſe who were overcome by the heat, but could neither get out or obtain the ſlighteſt relief. Upward of twenty gentlemen who had fainted were dragged up into the boxes; ſeveral were obſerved raiſing their hands, as if in the act of ſupplication for mercy and pity. It was with ſatisfaction we obſerved but few females expoſed to this diſtreſſing ſtate in the pit—they were but thirteen, and they fortunately were placed in ſituations ſo near the ſtage, that they had the full benefit of the air from it.—During all this time, it will ſurpriſe our readers to hear that the galleries were not ſubject to the ſlighteſt confuſion, but were the moſt decorous of any part of the houſe.

At length Mr. C. Kemble appeared for the purpoſe of ſpeaking an addreſs, but he hould not be heard, and was obliged to retire. The firſt act of the play, in which young Betty does not appear, could hardly be endured. There was one paſſage, however, in the ſecond act, which was received with great applauſe, both on account of Mrs. Litchfield's energetic expreſſion, and from its obvious application to the Gallic uſurper.

Zaphira.—Whom ſtil'ſt thou king?
Othman.—Barbaroſſa.
Zaphira.—Curſes blaſt the tyrant!
Does he aſſume the power of the king?
Othman.—He does.
Zaphira.—O title vily purchaſed! by the blood
Of innocence! by treachery and murder!
May Heav'n incens'd pour down its vengeance on him;
Blaſt all his joys, and turn them into horror;
'Till phrenſy riſe and bid him curſe the hour
That gave his crimes their birth.

At length young Roſcius appeared, and the whole houſe was inſtantly ſilent. He bowed with much grace and reſpect, and was greeted with the loudeſt applauſe, which he ſeemed to feel without ſuffering himſelf to be much overcome. He was dreſſed in white linen pantaloons, and a ſhort cloſe ruſſet jacket, trimmed with ſable, and a turban hat.

The character of Achmet is better ſuited to his age than any other he could have choſen for his debut, that prince being ſuppoſed only to have entered on his twentieth year; and conſequently the theatric illuſion is not much outraged by his youthful appearance. Maſter Betty is much taller and fuller than boys of his age uſually are; his height is found to be exactly four feet ten inches and half, and as his deportment is very erect, he appears much taller. His countenance is extremely handſome, and holds forth the promiſe of being very expreſſive; the features being ſtrongly caſt, and the eye filled with fire and intelligence. His action is very graceful, appropriate, and unembarraſſed; and, what is rare in a theatrical novice, not in the leaſt degree redundant. He poſſeſſes a voice of much compaſs and variety; the medium tones of it are round and full, and ſufficiently powerful, without the leaſt appearance of exertion, to be heard in every part of the houſe. Even when placed at the greateſt diſtance from the audience, and ſpeaking under the diſadvantage of being extended on his back, he was perfectly intelligible.

His conception of the character was extremely correct. His performance was not the ſucceſsful repetition of a leſſon he had been taught; but it evinced underſtanding and diſcrimination.

He did not appear to be fatigued with his exertion, but rather increaſed in energy with the progreſs of the piece. In the third act, his reſtrained tenderneſs—his apparent tranſports at the praiſes beſtowed upon him by his mother—the difficulty with which he refrains from declaring himſelf—the diſcovery of her ſon's being alive—the determination of that ſon to revenge her wrongs—were deſerving of every praiſe.

The ſoliloquy with which the third act concludes, was amongſt the beſt of the whole.

The manner in which he delivered the following ſpeech was very impreſſive.

> Off, ye vile ſlaves! *I* am your king—retire—
> And tremble at my frowns. *That* is the traitor;
> *That* is the murderer, tyrant, raviſher—Seize *him*,
> And do your *country* right.

We have marked the words he gave with peculiar effect.

He went through the remaining acts with equal ſpirit.

The only deficiency in his acting was in pourtraying the warmer paſſions, which is no ways extraordinary, becauſe it is impoſſible he ſhould yet feel them. Thus he makes but a cold lover of Irene. But filial tenderneſs, the paſſion moſt natural to his age, he pourtrays in the moſt intereſting manner, and he appears to be actuated by the moſt deadly hate of tyranny and murder.

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The prince of Wales was preſent in Lady Melbourn's box, and ſeveral time teſtified his approbation of the performance. Great numbers of the nobility, and perſons eminent for their learning and critical abilities, were behind the ſcenes; among the reſt was Mr. Kemble, who ſcrutinized very minutely the youth's performance, and contributed his applauſe.

Sketch of the Character of the late Rev. Mr. Graves, Rector of Claverton, near Bath.

THIS excellent perſon poſſeſſed from nature an extraordinary vivacity of conſtitution, to which the active employments of his choice and ſtation gave a full ſcope, and which a rigid temperance maintained unimpaired to the end of a long life. His mind was highly cultivated at a very early period, not from the ſeverity of precept, but from its ſpontaneous efforts to trace the ſources of refined and virtuous pleaſure. At college he was the intimate aſſociate of Shenſtone, Jago, Sir W. Blackſtone, and whomever elſe of diſtinguiſhed character the univerſity of Oxford then contained; and he approved himſelf in no reſpect their inferior, either in the vigour of his talents, the rectitude of his heart, or the fervency of his projects for future utility.

The example of his life has been uniformly of that kind, from which ſociety derives its eſſential advantages and actual comforts. His attention was not devoted to any ſpeculative reforms of human nature, but was exerted, minutely and continually, in the department immediately ſubject to his inſpection, to check the progreſs of errors that lead imperceptibly to calamity, and to direct the liſtening proſelyte the road to happineſs.

In his view of worldly actions, he contemplated the vices of mankind, with the moſt minute ſtrictneſs of diſcrimination; and when called on by his duty, he inveſtigated them with ſeverity, reproved them with earneſtneſs, but corrected them with lenity. A firſt offence met his compaſſion, not his anger; but he was ſlow to pardon its repetition.

A natural politeneſs, a ſimplicity of manners, equally unaſſumed and unaſſuming, covered (and from his ordinary acquaintance almoſt concealed) an ardent and energetic ſpirit, which never ſubmitted to unjuſt aggreſſion, and never ſtooped to diſſimulation or dependence. He endured affliction with the courage of a mind conſcious of its own uprightneſs, and frequently diverted the inroads of ſorrow by the exerciſe of his accuſtomed literary purſuits.

He had many of the eccentric habits of genius, but "the love of order" was the prevailing principle of his mind, and rule of his conduct. The familiar intercourſe of his domeſtic

hours

hours exhibited an unvarying tenor of affection, cheerfulneſs, and piety. He was in his heart, as in his profeſſion, attached to the truths of revelation. It was his declaration to an intimate friend, that after all the reſearches of reading or ſpeculative inquiry, he thought "No man" to uſe his own words "could help being a Chriſtian."

Mr. Graves was born in the year 1715, of an ancient family at Mickleton, in Gloceſterſhire. He was preſented to the living of Claverton, in Somerſetſhire, in the year 1748, and to that of Croſſcombe, in the ſame county, about two years ſince. He was a man of great claſſical learning, and was originally deſigned for the practice of medicine, but afterwards turned his thoughts to the church, in the doctrines of which he was uncommonly ſkilled. He eſtabliſhed a ſchool at Claverton for many years with the higheſt credit. He was firſt diſtinguiſhed in the literary world as the author of the Spiritual Quixote, to which he ſucceſſively added a great number of ingenious and intereſting publications in verſe and proſe, in a clear, familiar and lively ſtyle, partaking of the graces of Addiſon and Goldſmith.—His ſermons are written in the ſame unaffected manner, and find an eaſy acceſs to the heart. They are the only work to which he affixed his name, but there is no volume in the long catalogue of his writings, which does not bear the characteriſtic marks of his genius and virtue.

Narrative of the Sufferings of Captain David Woodard and four Seamen, on the Iſland of Celebes.

[From Mr. Phillips's newly-publiſhed Edition of that intereſting Narrative.]

CAPTAIN WOODARD ſailed in the Robert Morris, Captain Hay, a ſhip belonging to T. Ruſſel, Eſq. of Boſton: and on his arrival in India he was employed in making many country voyages in country ſhips, till the 20th January, 1793, when he ſailed as chief mate in the American ſhip Enterprize, Captain Hubbard, from Batavia for Manilla.

In conſequence of adverſe wind they were ſix weeks beating up the Straits of Macaſſar, during which time they fell ſhort of proviſions; and a veſſel appearing on the firſt of March, at the diſtance of about four leagues, Captain H. directed Mr. Woodard to take the boat and go on board her to purchaſe a ſupply, which he accordingly did, his ſhip being then in nearly nine minutes ſouth latitude. There were in the boat beſides himſelf, five ſailors, two of whom were Americans, two Engliſhmen, and one Scotchman:—their names were W. Gideon, J. Cole, a lad, A. Millar, R. Gilbert, and G. Williams. They were without

out provifions, water, or compafs; and had on board the boat only an axe, a boat-hook, two pocket-knives, an old gun, and forty dollars.

Towards fun-fet in the evening, they reached this veffel, after having encountered a heavy fquall from the land, which caufed them to lofe fight of their own. The captain of the fhip to whom they applied for provifions, was unable to grant their demand, in confequence of being bound for China, and having no more than one month's confumption on board. Night, however, approaching, Mr. Woodard was prevailed upon to ftay on board till the morning, which he readily confented to do, from the improbability of being able to regain his own veffel till the following day. In the morning they found the land bearing the fame as on the preceding evening, with a ftrong current to the fouthward; the fhip Enterprize not being in fight, even from the maft-head. The wind was fair for the latter to go through the Straits of Macaffar; and Mr. Woodard perceiving that he was now treated very coolly by the captain of the country fhip, which was making the beft of its way to China, he fummoned his men, and afked them if they were willing to go in fearch of their own veffel, which they all readily affented to. The boat was therefore hauled up; and though the officers told our voyager and his crew that it was a great chance if they regained their own veffel, he nevertheleſs perfifted in putting to fea. The captain of the country fhip gave them twelve muſket-cartridges and a bottle of brandy, but neither water nor provifions.

On the 2d of March, 1793, they left this fhip, in latitude nine minutes fouth of the line, and continued their courfe to the fouth, in hopes of difcovering their own veffel; but after rowing and failing till midnight, without attaining their object, they drew towards an ifland, on which they landed for the purpofe of procuring water. They immediately made a large fire in the hope that it might be perceived by their fhip; and in the morning they went to the higheft part of the ifland to look out for her, but could fee nothing of her. Not being fortunate enough to obtain on this ifland either water or provifions, they again took to their boat, and continued their courfe in the middle of the Straits for fix days longer, without taſting either food or drink, except their bottle of brandy. During this time they encountered a heavy fquall, in which the boat had nearly foundered, and which forced them to keep before the wind. When it abated they were in fight of the Celebes fhore, on which they all agreed to land, in fearch of provifions, and then to proceed for Macaffar, which they fuppofed to be about three degrees to the fouthward.

After rowing the remainder of that day and nearly all night, they came near the fhore, and lay-to till day-light; when, obſerving

ſerving two proas cloſe under the land, they directed their courſe towards them: but they ſoon perceived that the people on board were preparing for defence, by laſhing their proas to each other, and collecting their bamboo ſpears, of which they appeared to have ſeveral bundles. Mr. Woodard and his little crew, though overcome with hunger and fatigue, went boldly along ſide of them, and made them underſtand by ſigns that they wanted to buy proviſions. The Malays at firſt ſeemed inclined to comply with their requeſt. As ſoon, however, as they perceived that their viſitors had no arms in the boat, they immediately prepared for hoſtilities, and put on their creſſes or daggers, which are about two feet long, and waved towards the point.

After a ſhort ſuſpenſe, Mr. Woodard renewed his ſolicitations for proviſions, and requeſted to be furniſhed either with Indian corn or cocoa-nuts; but he met with an abſolute refuſal. He then offered a dollar for two cocoa-nuts, which the chief promiſed he ſhould have; but on receiving the dollar, inſtead of returning the nuts, he jumped into the boat with two of his crew, and immediately began to ſearch Mr. W. to aſcertain what money he had about him. Conceiving himſelf to be in danger, the latter ſeized an axe to defend himſelf; and on ordering the man at the bow to caſt off the boat, the three Malays made towards their proa, on gaining which the chief preſented a muſket at Mr. W. which miſſed fire, and before he could diſcharge it, the boat had got to ſuch a diſtance, that it did no execution.

"We now," ſays Mr. Woodard, "left both the proas, and ſoon directed our courſe towards the ſhore for proviſions and water, which we ſtood in the utmoſt need of, as our ſituation was become truly deſperate. I landed with one man, leaving the other four men in the boat, with orders to let nothing come alongſide. We ſoon after perceived both the proas come to an anchor, and that they ſent on ſhore the canoes which they had with them, with ſix hands armed, and fit for battle. I immediately ran to our boat, and ſhoved her off. The Malays cried out, and told me that they had Indian corn for me; but perceiving their intentions were to detain us on ſhore, and then to take poſſeſſion of the boat, and maſſacre our crew, I ſtood off, and went about four miles to the northward, round a point of land, and landed out of ſight of the proas, where there was a great plenty of cocoa-nut trees. I left two hands in the boat, and went with the other three up to the cocoa-nut trees; but not being able to climb them, and particularly in our weak ſtate, I was obliged to cut them down with my axe, which now proved a valuable friend to me. It had ſaved my life in the boat, and now gave us the firſt means to ſupport that life. After cutting down three trees for our ſea-ſtock, and growing quite tired, Archibald Millar told me, as neither of the lads that were with me was able to

uſe the axe, that he would go to the boat, and let one of the two men left in it, who could handle the axe, come to my aſſiſtance. Both of them left it, and joined me, while Millar ſtaid in the boat.

" By this time I had nearly cut down the fourth tree; and, as it was falling, I heard Millar, who was taking care of our boat, ſcream out in a moſt bitter manner. I immediately anſwered him, and ran to his aſſiſtance. On my arrival on the beach, I ſaw our boat off at ſome diſtance, full of Malays: but ſeeing nothing of Millar, I ran to the water's edge; and, ſuppoſing him in the boat, called to him. As I could get no anſwer, however, I conceived that they had carried him off, with all our little ſtores in our boat, which was the only means of our eſcape.

" On turning about, I perceived the poor fellow juſt at my feet, lying on his back, at the edge of the water, with his throat cut, and two cuts in his body; one on his right ſide between the ribs, and the other on his right leg, with his left hand on his breaſt, and his right by his ſide. I was greatly ſhocked at this event; and did not know how ſoon it might be our fate to be ſerved in the ſame manner, as we were diſcovered in an unknown country, and had every thing to fear from theſe ſavage Malays. The men who had taken our boat were the ſame who had landed from the canoes out of the proas; and, coming acroſs the neck of land, had waited there till they could find their opportunity of carrying it off.

" I now haſtened to our four men, and fled with them into the mountains, after having loſt our boat, money, and moſt of our clothes. We then concealed ourſelves in the mountains, amongſt the dry leaves, the remaining part of the day, having no great opinion of our lives or ſafety, and having to encounter with man, beaſt, and hunger. About the middle of the afternoon we heard a noiſe in the ſame direction that we had come; and, ſuppoſing it to be ſome of the Malays in ſearch of us, we covered ourſelves with leaves and buſhes in ſuch a manner as not to be ſeen. We were happy at laſt to find that it was only occaſioned by two large wild fowls, which flew away as ſoon as they ſaw us.

" We lay very quiet the remainder of this day, concluding, that the only means now left for our eſcape would be to get to Macaſſar, if poſſible, by land. Difficulties and dangers ſurrounded us. We found it not ſafe to walk about in the daytime, as we heard people on all ſides of us. Night was the beſt and only time to travel, to prevent diſcovery; but we were then in danger of beaſts, of loſing our way, and deſtitute of the means of furniſhing ourſelves with ſuſtenance. We, however, agreed to travel by night, and accordingly ſet out about eight o'clock, taking a ſtar for our guide, bearing ſouth. But the

woods were ſo thick with high trees, and buſhes underneath, that we ſoon loſt ſight of the ſtar, and kept on the ſide of the mountain, ſuppoſing we were going in the right courſe. We went through many brambles and places very thick with underwood, which tore our clothes; and at daylight, when we imagined we had walked about fifteen miles, we found ourſelves, to our great diſappointment and ſurpriſe, within a few rods of the place whence we had ſet out the preceding night,—owing to our having gone round the mountain inſtead of paſſing ſtraight over it.

"We reſided in this place all the day, during which we heard people on all ſides of us; but whether they were in ſearch of us or not, we could not tell. The night following we ſet out again for Macaſſar; but not truſting to a ſtar again, we then kept by the ſea-ſide, and ſo continued for ſix nights ſucceſſively, returning in the woods in the day for reſt and ſecurity; during which time we fell in with many wild beaſts. None of them, however, hurt us, as by throwing ſtones at them, and making a noiſe, we frightened them away whenever they came towards us; for we were without arms, and had only a boat-hook, which I made uſe of myſelf, an axe, two pocket-knives, and four clubs which we had cut in the woods.

"On the ſixth day from the loſs of our boat, and the thirteenth from the loſs of our ſhip, my people were become very faint, hungry, and weary, having had no proviſions ſince we left the ſhip, and only now and then a little water from the hollows of trees, and a few berries when we could get them. Our feet were alſo very ſore, as we were without ſhoes, and our bodies were much torn by briars and brambles. As for myſelf, being ſtout in perſon, and much uſed to exerciſe and fatigue, I did not feel ſo much exhauſted, as I kept up my ſpirits, and had my mind conſtantly engaged."

(To be continued.)

INTERESTING TRIAL.

COURT of KING's BENCH, Monday, December 3.

GEORGE CHAMBERS, ESQ. *verſus* J. CAULFIELD, ESQ.

THE plaintiff is the ſon of the late Sir William Chambers, architect to the king, has a commiſſion in his majeſty's ſervice, and was employed in the expedition to Holland. The defendant was alſo a captain in the army, is well known in the circles of gaiety and faſhion, and as an amateur of the dramatic art.

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The plaintiff married one of the daughters of Admiral Lord Rodney, in the autumn of the year 1784. It was a match of the pureſt ſenſibility and affection formed between two young perſons, the one eighteen and the other ſeventeen, and conſummated after a rapid expedition to Gretna Green. On their return from this northern flight, the union received the ſanction of the parents on both ſides, and this happy couple were joined according to the holy rites of the church of England, when Sir William Chambers was preſent at the ceremony. The iſſue of this marriage extended to nine beautiful children; eight of them were boys. For a long ſucceſſion of years, this early partiality ſeemed to be confirmed and ſtrengthened. Such was the joyful ſituation of theſe parties, until a ſhort time before they met the preſent defendant at a ball at Huntingdon, in the neighbourhood of which town the plaintiff reſided.

The ſubſequent facts will be more ſatisfactorily collected from the particulars of the trial, than from any detail we could give from our knowledge of the circumſtances.

Meſſrs. Erſkine, Garrow, and Scarlet were counſel for the plaintiff; Meſſrs. Dallas, Gibbs, and Burrough, for the defendant.

Mr. Erſkine, on the part of the former, diſcloſed the facts of the caſe. He ſaid, this was an action ſeeking a compenſation, in damages, for the criminal intercourſe of the defendant with the wife of the plaintiff.

The lady was exquiſitely beautiful, perfectly accompliſhed, of moſt faſcinating manners; and notwithſtanding the numerous progeny which ſhe had given to become the ornament of ſociety, ſhe retained all the appearance of vernal lovelineſs. The defendant is a man poſſeſſed of an elegant perſon, of a finiſhed addreſs, and endowed with thoſe talents and powers which find a vigilant and inſidious advocate in the female boſom. He ſaw, and he admired this lady at a dance given in the principal town of the county where ſhe reſided. Moſt melancholy it was, that theſe ſentiments were not confined to himſelf; ſhe alſo ſaw, felt, and admired, and from that moment the felicity of her huſband was for ever deſtroyed.

The plaintiff immediately obſerved a ſudden change in her manners; on every little domeſtic diſpute ſhe threatened to leave her huſband, and the fond circle in which ſhe appeared; and future events could alone explain to the afflicted huſband this grievous revolution. During this miſerable interval, the plaintiff diſcovered a letter in her hand; urged by jealouſy, he attempted to ſeize it; in conſequence of this ſcuffle, ſhe deſerted the manſion of her huſband and children; but at this time he had attained no knowledge of her criminality. Soon after this fracas, he was, in his oſtenſible character in the ſervice, called upon to embark to join in the attack on Holland. It ſo hap-

pened that the indiſpoſition of this officer did not admit of his remaining in that humid climate, he therefore unexpectedly returned to his houſe at Hartford, near Huntingdon, where his wife then was. She appeared on his arrival, extremely agitated, and the next morning left the place, abandoning an infant, of only ſeven months old, wholly unprotected.

Mrs. Cotine, the ſiſter of the plaintiff, depoſed to the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Chambers, on the twelfth of September, 1784.

The Rev. John Walker gave teſtimony to the harmony and affection that prevailed in the family, in which he acted in the capacity of tutor.

Mrs. Little was in the ſituation of houſekeeper, and had alſo the ſuperintendance of the children. She firſt obſerved a change in the deportment of Mrs. Chambers in the year 1798, and ſhe had ſome time before obſerved a diſpoſition to flirt with ſeveral gentlemen; but ſhe noticed nothing very remarkable until 1801, when Captain Caulfield had a lodging at Huntingdon, and was a frequent viſitor to her maſter and miſtreſs. Being interrogated if ſhe noticed any thing peculiarly familiar in the behaviour of Captain Caulfield and Mrs. Chambers, ſhe ſaid they were accuſtomed to ſit on the ſopha together, in the abſence of her huſband.

After the departure of the plaintiff for the Helder, the captain was received on a footing of much nearer intimacy; he was accuſtomed to be in the houſe late in the evening and early in the morning, and none of the ſervants knew when he went or when he returned, ſo that ſuſpicions were entertained that he was an inmate all night in the family. The men-ſervants were uſually ſent to bed at this period at an early hour. Mrs. Chambers had alſo altered her plan in one particular; it was uſual with her to admit the children into her room, as ſoon as they roſe, with the witneſs, who attended them, but during the whole of this interval, they were excluded, and both the doors of her apartment were locked.

Mary Smith remained in the ſervice of the lady two years, from about Chriſtmas, 1801, to the ſame feſtival in 1803. Her miſtreſs then lived at Farnham St. Martin's, near Bury St. Edmund's. She thought Captain Caulfield was then a lodger with her. From thence ſhe removed to Prince's-ſtreet, Hanover-ſquare; thence to Fulham; afterwards to Mint Farm, near Reigate; and again to Batterſea; and in all theſe ſituations the defendant attended her, and ſeemed to continue a lodger, and an acquaintance in her family, and no illicit intercourſe was detected. Afterwards they went to Chertſey, and there likewiſe they had two ſeparate beds and apartments; but from her experience in her office of chamber-maid, what, from their previous conduct, and the proximity of the rooms, ſhe had ſtrong

ſuſpicions,

ſuſpicions, notwithſtanding both beds were regularly made, and conſtantly diſordered; and from other more minute circumſtances, which it is neither delicate nor neceſſary to explain, ſhe had no doubt that the defendant had criminal intercourſe with her miſtreſs.

Mr. Dallas, for the defendant, admitted that, if the caſe were proved, his client had alienated the affections of this lovely ſeraph, retaining all the charms, even at this hour, of virgin beauty, no damages could be too ſerious, and no compenſation could be adequate to the injury ſuſtained by the plaintiff. However, the claim of Mr. Chambers, in a court of law, muſt depend upon the merit of his pretenſions. The learned counſel, after the evidence that had been laſt adduced, would not, and could not, pretend that the adultery had not been proved; but whether the plaintiff had any juſt demand for damages muſt depend on the facts by which the defence would be ſupported. It was ſingular, that though Mrs. Cotine, the ſiſter of the plaintiff, was brought forward as a witneſs, not a ſingle queſtion was propoſed to her by his learned friend, on the harmony ſubſiſting between the plaintiff and his wife, although it might be thought, from his repreſentation, that this conjugal union was a ſort of matrimonial elyſium, which could alone be exceeded by the joys of paradiſe. The happineſs of this pair was to be proved by the unſupported evidence of a ſingle domeſtic, E. Little, whoſe depoſitions, in ſeveral reſpects, were abſurd and contradictory. The ſon of Sir William Chambers, and the daughter of my Lord Rodney, muſt poſſeſs a regular and habitual intercourſe with thoſe who held a diſtinguiſhed rank in the faſhionable world, and yet not one of their aſſociates had been produced to give teſtimony to thoſe mutual endearments, which appeared only in the brief of his opponent. He ſhould make it appear, why this ſort of evidence could not be ſupplied; he would produce to the jury a ſeries of letters; he would produce a deed, ſanctioned by all the formalities of the law, which would expoſe a ſyſtem of brutality in the conduct of the plaintiff; after which he could be entitled to no damages; and it would equally excite the aſtoniſhment and the compaſſion of the court, or perhaps its contempt, that he ſhould have preſumed to claim of the juſtice of his country, what virtue and humanity alone had a right to require.

Mr. Dallas then produced the letters to which he adverted. The firſt was dated in May, 1798, in which the plaintiff aſſented to a ſeparation; ſpeaks of the terms on which it is to be effected; and intreats her not to take one of the carriages with her, as it would expoſe him to an aſſeſſment of 40l. a year. The next was dated the 2d of June, wherein he implores pardon for his paſt miſconduct, intreats a union, and ſays, he ſhall be ever grateful, if ſhe will not refuſe his requeſt. On the third letter,

which

which is dated four days poſterior, he beſeeches her to be reconciled to him, if not on his account, at leaſt from her attachment to her children; from her reſpect for her own dignity; and from every motive of policy and expedience.

He was now going abroad on a public and dangerous duty; in his abſence he ſhould be perfectly compoſed and reſigned to every peril in the ſervice of his country, if ſhe would reſtore to him peace, by extending her forgiveneſs: then alluding to ſome threat which he had uttered in an unfortunate hour, he adds, "with regard to the piſtols, I never intended you the ſmalleſt injury, and what I uttered, was under the momentary influence of hurry and intoxication."

The learned counſel then proceeded to a deed of reconciliation, to which John and Jane Chambers, George Lord Rodney, John Rodney, and John Milbank, Eſqrs. were parties. He ſaid, that in this deed there was an abſolute covenant, that in caſe of differences, ſhe ſhould be admitted to part at the time her own diſcretion ſhould direct; that 500l. in dreſs and furniture ſhould be allowed her, with an annuity of 200l. per annum. She was likewiſe to have the two younger children, until they were eight years old, under her care, and permiſſion to ſee the other children at the houſe of the plaintiff, whenever her maternal affection ſhould be ſo diſpoſed. The whole tenor of the defence was directed to ſhew the plaintiff, by his own groſs conduct, had alienated the affections of his wife: that ſhe had obtained terms of ſeparation with his own concurrence, in conſequence of his brutality: and that therefore, for any act of infidelity, however ſucceſsfully ſhewn, he could maintain no action for damages in a court of juſtice.

The deed and the letters having been proved by Mr. Bootle, they were read according to the order of their dates, by the clerk of the court, by which it appeared that the plaintiff expreſſed the moſt poignant contrition for his own errors, and not a ſyllable of the ſmalleſt diſcontent ariſing from any part of the deportment of Mrs. Chambers.

Mr. Erſkine then roſe in reply, with ſtrong marks of indignation. The moſt infamous reports had been circulated by this defendant, in order to deter the plaintiff from ſeeking the redreſs to which he was entitled at the bar of his country. By the inſtructions with which his learned friend was ſupplied, he was now made acquainted with the corrupt fountain from which they iſſued. This profligate adulterer, repoſing in the arms of this beautiful and unfortunate woman, had proſtituted the confidence to which he was admitted, had ranſacked the papers in her poſſeſſion, in order to convert the proofs of the ardent affections of her huſband, into inſtruments of deſtruction to the man over whom he triumphed.

If Mr. Chambers had been guilty of any miſconduct; if he had frequented gaming-houſes and brothels; if he had practiſed the arts and the vices of the ſpendrift and the debauchee, abundant teſtimony would have been afforded, of which his learned friend might have availed himſelf, in order to ſhew that the profligacy of the plaintiff rendered him unworthy of the affection of his accompliſhed wife. But not a tittle of evidence had been adduced, notwithſtanding all the advantages with which the counſel were ſupplied; they had contented themſelves with alluſions made by the plaintiff, in the noble and generous ſpirit of repentance, which itſelf argued he was incapable of the offences with which he was charged. A ſcramble about a contemptible ſlip of paper had been adverted to, and a ſtory about an unloaded piſtol was blazoned forth, to ſupport the feeble narrative. Suppoſe, in the moment of inebriety, either from the effects of wine, or from the more deadly poiſon of jealouſy, he had done what had been repreſented. That demon had been driven from Hell to transfer its fires into the breaſt of this victim. A lady of noble alliance is conducted from town to town, and expoſed in a ſtate of proſtitution to the ridicule of fools, to the compaſſion of the wiſe, and to the contempt of all. A ſoldier returning from the field of battle to the embraces of the object of his early affection, is rejected with diſdain; he is deprived of that ſociety which had converted the days of trouble into a ſeaſon of uninterrupted felicity, and for the loſs he has ſuſtained, he claims reparation from the honour and the juſtice of his country.

When Lord Ellenborough was about to ſum up the evidence, one of the jurors deſired to propoſe a queſtion to the houſekeeper. Mrs. Little being called, he enquired if, before the intimacy of the defendant with her maſter, ſhe obſerved any thing inconſiſtent with mutual love and harmony to ſubſiſt between the plaintiff and his wife? The reply was, that ſhe had noticed nothing of the kind, excepting the diſpute regarding the letter.

Lord Ellenborough (to the jury).—"After this brilliant diſplay of talent and eloquence, it becomes us to withdraw ourſelves from the influence of the paſſions, and to enquire into the facts, as ſober and reaſonable men. It ſeems to me, the gentlemen on each ſide have aſſumed propoſitions, ſtronger than the evidence will ſupport, in favour of their reſpective clients. On the part of the defendant, it is argued that this deed of conciliation is to be conſidered as a complete renunciation of the right of the defendant to the ſociety of his wife, ſo as to preclude him from a right of action under the preſent circumſtances. Perhaps articles might be ſo framed as to reach to this extent, but theſe are not of that deſcription, and they were formed with a view to the increaſe, at leaſt of the mutual happineſs of both the wife and the huſband; but the latter, however, puts himſelf

ſo

ſo far in the power of his wife, as to admit her to withdraw, whenever her diſcretion ſhould dictate her doing ſo. On the other ſide, too much is charged againſt the defendant, when they ſay he was the ſole cauſe of the alienation of the affections of the wife; for, attending to the dates of the documents produced, we cannot avoid ſeeing, that as early as May, 1798, before Captain Caulfield had acceſs to the houſe, very ſerious differences prevailed in the family. Even in the moſt correct domeſtic circle, from the occaſional ebullitions of ill temper, diſputes will ariſe; and it by no means is a neceſſary conſequence, that becauſe family quarrels ſometimes take place, the door is to be thrown open to every adulterer, and our courts to be cloſed upon the claimant ſeeking redreſs for the injury he has ſuſtained. The queſtion then is, in what degree the defendant was inſtrumental in erecting or heightening theſe teſts."—[His lordſhip here entered into the particulars of the evidence, both on the part of the plaintiff and defendant, and concluded with theſe obſervations:—]

"We certainly have the confeſſion of the plaintiff, that in the early ſtate of theſe diſagreements, he was the ſole cauſe. You will, therefore, conſider, if by his own miſconduct he has deſtroyed the affections of his wife. If he has deprived her of that love and attachment, which are the beſt guardians of female honour, this will materially affect the proportion of damages to be aſſigned. But this will not excuſe the man, who, by his miſconduct, has rendered reconciliation impoſſible.—To the extent to which the plaintiff has ſuffered real injury, he will expect at your hands reparation."

The jury having withdrawn, in leſs than half an hour returned with a verdict for the plaintiff.—Damages Two Thouſand Pounds.

POLITICAL CONVULSIONS.

IT has been obſerved, that great occaſions, and hazardous ſituations, have a tendency to create and develope talents; and of courſe that times of revolution, and important ſtruggles of ſtates, are the moſt productive of *great men*. It is aſſerted by ſome, however, that the French revolution forms a contradiction to the general obſervation, inaſmuch as, although it has occaſioned a long and ſevere ſtruggle, and given riſe to very great crimes, it has not produced one man who can be with propriety called *great*, even allowing that wickedneſs did not preclude from the title.

It muſt be acknowledged that, if the French revolution has not given riſe to any *great men*, it has had an effect more extraordinary and unexpected; having entirely overſet, and annihilated the *greatneſs* of more men than any revolution ever did.

REFLECTION.

RELIGION ſhould teach us to conſider with becoming indifference the concerns of this life, as the only permanent ſources of felicity are the hopes which we derive, from revelation, of happineſs in a future ſtate.

Notice of a ſingular Appearance in the Heavens on the 22d of October, 1804.

To the PRINTER,

SIR, *Hull, November* 11.

ON Monday evening, the 22d October, about ſeven o'clock, was obſerved a ſingularly-awful appearance in the heavens, which, though the upper regions of the atmoſphere were filled with thin vapoury clouds, appeared all on fire. Its firſt appearance was in the north weſt; when, darting up to the zenith, it was there in a ſhort ſpace of time met by another brilliant effuſion of the ſame luminous matter from the ſouth eaſt; forming, when thus joined, a great arc of a circle, at an immenſe height above the earth, ſtill increaſing in breadth till of very conſiderable extent. In this broad belt of vapour there was, however, an occaſional variation from a fainter, on the outſide, to a deeper red on the more central parts; at intervals, the continuity of the luminous arch was broken, and then there darted from its north weſt quarter, towards the zenith, ſtrong ſtreaks and flaſhes of bright red. This wonderfully fine ſight continued till nine o'clock, when the inferior parts of the atmoſphere towards the north were as light as though the ſun had but juſt ſet, or reſembled rather more exactly, that light which marks this part of the horizon in a fine midſummer's night. The preceding phænomenon preceded ſome very heavy gales of wind.

Your's &c.

PHYSICIEN.

Anſwer, by Robert Maſſett, of Saltaſh, to R. Thomas's Queſtion, inſerted Auguſt 13.

LET y denote the length of the line, and put x for the greater ſegment, and c for the leſs=45.8359 feet; then we ſhall have $y \times c = xx$ and $y = x + c$, exterminate y, and have alſo $xx - xc = cc$, which equation ſolved gives $x = 74.1640$ feet, the greater ſegment ſought.—Q. E. D.

† W. Gregory, of Tamerton Foliott, has alſo anſwered this queſtion.

Anſwer, by M. A. of Sidbury, to Octo-decim's Rebus, inſerted October 15.

HAIL LIBERTY! our ſacred, deareſt boaſt,
Life is not worth a ſtruggle when thou'rt loſt;
May England ever be thy choſen ſeat,
And, tho' beſet with foes, remain a happy ſtate!

☞ We have received the like anſwer from J. W. Fuller, Telemachus, W. Strong, P. Gove, R. Holwell, J. T. Symons, and S. Murch, of Exeter; E. Moon, of Wincanton; Coſmopolitan, of Stalbridge; William Gifford, of South Petherton; Theodore, and W. Pollard, of Mevagiſſey; J. Whittle, of Upway; J. Channon, of Ottery; G. Holland, and G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot; Inamoratus, of Aſhburton; Cornwallina, of St. Teath; Primroſe, of Taunton; J. Lewis, J. B. Bloomfield, and T. Adey, of Poole; and J. Ninnis, of St. Agnes.

Anſwer, by A. Kyne, Jun. of Dartmouth, to J. Lewis's Rebus, inſerted October 15.

ONE morn as thro' the grove I ſtray'd
All nature beauteous was array'd;
On yon umbrageous BEECHen tree
The warblers tun'd their melody.

†*† We have received the like anſwer from Cornwallina, of St. Teath; Recluſe, of Awliſcombe; T. Prout, of Wiveliſcombe; W. Commins, Telemachus, W. Strong, R. Holwell, J. T. Symons, S. Murch, and T. Boult, of Exeter; Theodore, of Mevagiſſey; J. Channon, of Ottery; G Holland, and G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot; Inamoratus, of Aſhburton; Primroſe, of Taunton; J. Callaway, of Stalbridge; J. Ninnis, of St. Agnes; W. Pollard, of Egloſhayle; J. Bloomfield, and T. Adey, of Poole; and E. Moon, of Wincanton.

A CHARADE, *by E. Moon, of Wincanton.*

MY firſt and ſecond, tho' its ſtrange,
Are in the ocean found;
Now, gents. theſe two in order range,
You will a fruit expound.

A CHARADE, *by T. Prout, of Mevagiſſey.*

WHEN tempeſt ſweeps the verdant plain,
And hail falls rattling down amain,
My firſt is borne away;
A meaſure brings my next to fight,
Ingenious youths, join theſe aright,
A bird they will diſplay.

A REBUS, *by J. B. Bloomfield, of Poole.*

A Heathen goddeſs firſt find out;
A tree add to the fame;
And next you'll bring, without a doubt,
Ye gents, an emp'ror's name;
Fourthly, a garment pray deſcribe;
And then a fiſh, Sirs, tell;
My laſt belongs to Flora's tribe:
My whole's a beaſt—farewell.

POETRY.

PICTURE *of* MORNING.

[From the Powers of Genius, a Poem, lately publiſhed.]

ONCE more ſupported by the care of Heaven,
Without whoſe knowledge not a ſparrow falls,
I breathe the air of morn. The voice of joy
Now welcomes nature from the ſleep of night,
And pours its ſong of gratitude to God.

Bright from yon hill looks forth the king of day.
He ſhakes his golden locks, and flings on earth
His full effulgence, and his genial warmth.
With red the towering mountains all are tipt.
The lake flow winding thro' its ſedgy bed
Reflects its radiance trembling o'er its wave.
The tall winds whiſtle, bending their green heads.
The hills with gladneſs meet the opening day,
And echo to the bleating of the flocks.
Varying and wild, ſweet nature's tuneful band
Forth from the grove their gayeſt muſic ſend;
And now and then is wafted to the ear
The muſic of the diſtant ſhepherd's pipe.
Moiſten'd with dew the flow'ret of the vale
Lifts its gay head, and the ſaluting breeze
Bears its ſweet fragrance on its wings away.
Health flies the pillow when the ſun has riſen.
Health wantons in the breath of balmy morn.
Nature has waken'd from her ſtill repoſe,
Shook from her arms the drowſy god of ſleep.

Come then, Alinda, with me bend thy courſe
O'er the gay landſcape glittering in the ſun.
Let us inhale the ſpirit of the breeze,
And mark the charms of nature in the buſh,
And brake and lawn, and morn's unruffled wave.
Give to the light, fair maid! thy peerleſs beauty,
Give to the wind thy locks of gloſſy hair,
And give to me thy ſoft, benignant ſmile.

Lines addreſſed to a Friend, on receiving Blanks in the Lottery.

O Fortune! thou art partial, fickle, blind,
Thou canſt not ſee the beauty of the mind;
The powder'd fop, who has a large eſtate,
And empty titles all to make him great,
Procures a lottery ticket, gains a prize,
Altho' he's neither learned, good, nor wiſe.
O ſad reverſe! the man with friendſhip fir'd,
With nature, genius, and true taſte inſpir'd,
Who drinks the bitters which diſtreſs beſtows,
And ſeldoms taſteth joys unmix'd with woes,
Obtains a trifling ſhare, that he may try
If fortune's wheel will turn adverſity.
The wheel, alas! turns up a uſeleſs blank,
Nor ſmiling units grace the foremoſt rank.

Alas!

Alas! he lives unpitied, unreliev'd,
Friendleſs, unknown, and thus he is deceiv'd;
Deſpis'd by fortune, buffeted by fate,
Loſt to the world in an obſcure retreat;
O genius, heavenly born! O ſad neglect!
Thou art not honour'd with ſincere reſpect:
Thy ſapient head, and frenzy rolling eye,
Looks towards the azure vault, the ſpang!'d ſky,
Can count the ſtars that ſparkle on its robe,
And mark the time of each revolving globe;
Can view our earth in gayeſt livery dreſs'd,
Which fires thy ſoul, and warms thy generous breaſt.

But fickle fortune's blind, tho' low'ring eye,
Brings forth from thee the ſuff'ring of a ſigh;
Few learn to pity genius in diſtreſs,
Elſe friends would ſtrive to make his ſorrows leſs!
Ah! long adieu to fortune's favour'd ſmile,
Her ſunſhine brightens that ſhe may beguile;
She flatters us with hope, to cheer our hearts,
Now ſmiles, now frowns, then, vaniſhing departs;
O let us not deſpair! ſince hope draws nigh,
To ſoothe our hearts, prevent the heaving ſigh.
If adverſe fate decreed our hapleſs doom,
Hope cheers the gloomy proſpect 'yond the tomb;
Hope lends enchantment to the pleaſing ſight,
Anticipates the future with delight.
Yes, my young friend, I muſt endure, with thee,
The adverſe ſtorms of life's tempeſtuous ſea;
O! with due patience, life's ſad troubles bear!
O pray reſolve to conquer wild deſpair!
Let not ſelf-murder ſtretch the coward arm,
Nor frightful dreams thy coward ſoul alarm.
But wait with patience 'till that happy hour,
When you ſhall be 'yond fortune's ſportive pow'r;
Thy raptur'd ſoul thro' yielding ſkies ſhall ſoar,
To that bleſt place where angels, ſaints adore,
Thus ſhalt thou ever join in ſongs divine,
Shrouded in light, in Heaven's immortal ſhrine.

AMICUS.

STANZAS *on a* YOUNG LADY.

ROUS'D from old ocean's bed, the god of day
Thro' heaven's pure azure urg'd his radiant way,
Wak'd the glad morning as he came, and hurl'd
His richeſt glories o'er the ſmiling world!
With wonder and with joy my raptur'd ſight
View'd the bright ſource of beauty, life, and light!

I gaz'd—when, lo! Eliza came! array'd
In all her charms, ſhone forth the blooming maid!
Imperial beauty charter'd on her face;
Each varying moment bade ſome new-born grace
Light her warm cheek, and o'er her boſom move,
And glow'd in either eye the torch of love!

Bright Phœbus! faireſt of the pow'rs divine!
Forgive the weakneſs of a heart like mine!
Thine orb no more I view'd with glad ſurprize,
On brighter charms I fix'd my eager eyes!
Withdrew the homage to thy beauties ow'd,
And thought the MORTAL fairer than the GOD!